

Celebrating Earth Day 2009 Across the Globe

Installations Pitch in to “Partner for the Planet”

THE NAVY’S THEME for Earth Day 2009, “Partnering for the Planet” focused on the collaborative culture of active duty, civilian and contractor personnel accomplishing the military mission while simultaneously safeguarding the environment.

In a Navy Earth Day message released on 17 April, Vice Admiral Michael K. Loose (Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Fleet Readiness and Logistics) stated, “Partnering with other military services, Federal and state agencies, industry and non-governmental organizations, the Navy is achieving remarkable success in protecting and enhancing the environment, energy management and carbon footprint reduction.”

In the energy conservation realm, he mentioned focus areas of the Navy’s recently launched Task Force Energy. “The Navy is transforming energy production and consumption practices

ashore, afloat, and in the air,” said Admiral Loose. “More efficient use of fossil fuels, coupled with increased reliance on alternative energy, will minimize strategic and tactical dependence on volatile and vulnerable energy sources.”

“We sponsor more marine mammal research than any other organization in the world,” he continued, “investing more than \$100 million over the past five years in partnership with other agencies.”

Citing many other examples of environmental successes, Vice Admiral Loose concluded his statement by speaking directly to all Navy personnel. “Thank you for your proactive daily efforts to protect our environment for future generations while we carry out our primary mission of protecting our nation.”

The following summaries describe many of the Earth Day-related events in which installations participated on and around 22 April 2009.



Senior Resident Specialist Sheila Martinez-Kayser of SUBASE New London lifts a trash bag from the wetlands near Balfour Beatty Military housing.

“Partnering with other military services, Federal and state agencies, industry and non-governmental organizations, the Navy is achieving remarkable success in protecting and enhancing the environment, energy management and carbon footprint reduction.”

—Vice Admiral Michael K. Loose

Navy Region Mid-Atlantic

Naval Submarine Base New London, CT

More than 300 Sailors and Navy personnel from Naval Submarine Base (SUBASE) New London invested more than 1,300 hours of volunteer time during Earth Week at and around the base.

Commanding Officer Captain Mark S. Ginda issued the base's first Earth Day challenge in 2007, drawing into action nearly 200 Sailors, civilians and students from the Naval Submarine School. This year's response was even greater, as volunteers took on a wide variety of environmentally focused projects. While some participants extolled environmental stewardship to youth through school presentation opportunities, others had the chance to delve into the dirt at several area parks, preserves and nature conservancies. Picking up trash, clearing dead or overgrown trees and bushes, and rebuilding rock walls were some of the heavy-lifting activities taken on by the volunteers.

Submitted by Lena Blanch, SUBASE New London

Naval Weapons Station Earle, NJ

Naval Weapons Station (NWS) Earle, NJ celebrated Earth Day all month long. On 1 April, the Earle Environmental

Division participated in a Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Leisure Exposition. The exposition allowed the Environmental Division to promote the Navy's Green Procurement Program with a display of various environmentally preferable products and information. A wastewater runoff demonstration was also included in the exhibit.

On Arbor Day, NWS Earle celebrated their designation as a Tree City by the National Arbor Day Association by handing out free saplings. Some of those saplings were taken to the base's Child Development Center, where Environmental Division staffers assisted the children in planting them, and passed out coloring books, stickers, magnets and whale identification wheels.

And finally, on 22 April, environmental representatives joined military personnel to pick up trash as part of the Command's Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup Program.

Submitted by Dennis Swalwell, NWS Earle



Electronics Technician First Class (SS) Ben Greenwood, from SUBASE New London, collects trash at Bluff Point State Park.
Alexander Lockman



Commanding Officer, Captain Mark S. Ginda removes rusty antiquated fencing from the forest and wetlands along SUBASE New London's perimeter road.



SUBASE New London Commanding Officer, Captain Mark S. Ginda, speaks to fifth grade students about the importance of Earth Day.



The Environmental Division of NWS Earle handed out free saplings in celebration of Earth Day and Arbor Day.



Children at NWS Earle were given free saplings for Earth Day.

Navy Information Operations Command Sugar Grove, WV

For the fifteenth year in a row, Navy Information Operations Command (NIOC) Sugar Grove hosted the Sugar Grove Environmental, Health and Safety Fair. Held in conjunction with local schools and surrounding communities, the fair provided command personnel, school children and local citizens with a variety of information on energy and water conservation, health and safety issues and other environmental issues.

Also in April, volunteers from on- and off-base planted 200 American Chestnut trees in the Command's Riparian Buffer Zone. The zone was established to filter storm water in an attempt to reduce the amount of sediment and other pollutants reaching the Chesapeake Bay. The American Chestnut once thrived in the area, but a blight all but decimated the old growth stands around 100 years ago. The plantings represent a wide-scale attempt to bring the American Chestnut back to its native habitat.

The base also participated in two other cleanup activities in conjunction with Earth Day: the West Virginia Make-it-Shine Roadside Cleanup and Streamside Cleanup.

Submitted by Steven W. Niethamer, NIOC Sugar Grove

Marine Corps Installations East & Navy Region Southeast

Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, NC

Earth Day commemorations at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point received the largest volunteer participation to date. The week-long roster of activities

included three focused cleanup activities, a fossil dig and recycling contest at Arthur Edwards Elementary School, and a 5K Fun Run/Walk. A total of over 332 volunteers came out to help commemorate Earth Day and over 1,900 pounds of trash were picked up from the station.

The cleanup efforts included a team of 12 who cleaned out stormwater ponds on base in the rain. Grants Landing Beach and Meads beach were also cleaned by volunteers.

Twenty five volunteers and six classes of kindergarteners participated in the fossil dig. The children dug for shark's teeth and learned about recycling and fire safety.

The 5K Fun Run/Walk attracted 250 participants—the highest number ever. One hundred pounds of recyclable



Colonel Bottorff, Commanding Officer of MCAS Cherry Point, starts the 5K race.



Marines clean up the beach at MCAS Cherry Point

aluminum cans were collected at registration for the Wounded Warrior Program.

Submitted by Alicia Filzen, MCAS Cherry Point

Fleet Readiness Center East, Cherry Point, NC

The Fleet Readiness Center East (FRCE) is located within MCAS Cherry Point in Havelock, NC. For the third year in a row, the FRCE Industrial Environmental Division held an Earth Day Art Poster Competition. This year, high school students were chosen to participate in the competition, themed “What Does Earth Day Mean to Me?”

A panel of five FRCE Environmental Division judges reviewed the submissions for originality, theme, clarity and overall artistic merit. An awards ceremony was held 20 April in the Executive Boardroom with the Commanding Officer, Colonel David Smith presenting awards to the top three finalists. The first place winner received an engraved plaque and the second and third place winners received certificates.

Submitted by Marshall “Wayne” Taylor, FRCE

Navy Region Southeast

Submarine Base Kings Bay, GA

Sailors from SUBASE Kings Bay joined citizens from Camden County in the area’s Great American Cleanup on 17 and 18 April.



Marines from the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training at MCAS Cherry Point assisted kindergarteners in a fossil dig.



Alyssa Pence, Elin Larson and Samantha Taylor of East Carteret High School receive awards in the poster contest held by FRCE.



Personnel from the Ohio-class submarine USS ALASKA (SSBN 732) participated in the Great American Cleanup on and around SUBASE Kings Bay on 17 and 18 April.

Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Joshua Martin

The base had 155 participants who picked up approximately 75 bags of trash. Commands participating included the newest addition to the base, the USS ALASKA (SSBN 732), which had only arrived in the area less than three weeks earlier.

“It feels great to get out and support the community,” said Fire Technician 1st Class (SS) Damon Trotter, volunteer coordinator for the ALASKA. “Camden County has been extremely supportive and welcoming since our arrival, and I am looking forward to interacting with the community more during my tenure here at Kings Bay.”

“The support of the Sailors, Marines and their families from SUBASE Kings Bay is critical to the success of our efforts to Keep Camden Beautiful,” said Doug Cooper, Keep Camden Beautiful coordinator.

“I know first-hand the dedication of this group of hard-working people, and the sacrifices they made again this year in supporting the ‘Great American Cleanup,’ have not gone unnoticed. I personally feel honored to have the base as such active neighbors in our community.”

Submitted by Kelly Wirfel

Naval Air Station Jacksonville, FL

In conjunction with Jacksonville’s annual Earth Day celebration, Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville hosted a shoreline cleanup event at the MWR Marina. Participants were given

NSA Panama City Commanding Officer Jessica M. Pfefferkorn and NAVFAC Public Works Department Environmental Director Mike Clayton at Earth Day cleanup.

Dianne Law



NSA Panama City personnel at Earth Day cleanup.

Jonnie Smallman



life vests, use of boats and a free lunch after the event.

NAS Jacksonville also participated in Earth Day Jacksonville Ecology Fair, a day full of fun events and activities for children and families.

Submitted by Angela Glass, NAS Jacksonville

Naval Support Activity Panama City, FL

Personnel at Naval Support Activity (NSA) Panama City commemorated Earth Day by removing brush and undergrowth from the banks of a pond that had been neglected for nine years. The facility also held a contest to name the pond and the pedestrian bridge that spans it. The winners of the contest received free boat rental at the MWR Marina.

Submitted by Jonnie Smallman, NSA Panama City

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, TX

Approximately 250 people representing 15 different Commands aboard NAS Corpus Christi registered to take part in the annual base cleanup held in honor of Earth Day. The event lasted three hours and over 175 bags of trash were collected from across the installation.



A volunteer from NAS Corpus Christi participates in cleanup activities at the base.

Christina Meza

The event kicked off with a short inspirational speech from NAS Corpus Christi Commanding Office Captain Randy Pierson and ended with a free meal provided by MWR.

Submitted by Rich Riddle, NAS Kingsville and NAS Corpus Christi

Navy Region Midwest

Navy Region Midwest celebrated Earth Day with a variety of environmentally focused activities. In St. Louis, Navy Week coincided with Earth Day, and volunteers were on hand near the St. Louis Arch to demonstrate oil spill response equipment and Alternative Fueled Vehicles and disseminate information on Midwest Navy environmental and energy initiatives.

Elsewhere in the Midwest, Naval Station Great Lakes sponsored a base-wide cleanup and tree planting.

Submitted by Mark Schultz, Navy Region Midwest

Navy Region Southwest

On 30 April, Navy Region Southwest Environmental sponsored the first

San Diego Bay Symposium partnership. The Bay management lacks a shared information base and adequate funding—this partnership provides a mechanism to implement community responsibility and vision for improved health and biodiversity of San Diego Bay.

Rear Admiral Len Hering kicked off the gathering of researchers, educators and natural resource managers who provide environmental oversight, protection and conservation of San Diego Bay. In all, 21 organizations were in attendance.

Navy Region Southwest also worked with its partners in the San Diego Regional Sustainability Partnership to put together the Earth Day event “Greening Your Office.” This public outreach event featured a tour of a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold-certified office building, which featured both energy efficiency and attractive, sustainable modular furniture.



John Young (left) and Trebor Calloway (center) load unneeded electronics onto a forklift at the Navy Region Southwest Headquarters.

Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Alexander Ameen

The region was able to share with the public some of its green initiatives including the Sustainable Interior Showroom.

Submitted by Christopher Stathos, Navy Region Southwest

Navy Region Southwest also held their first-ever electronics turn-in on Earth Day. This spring cleaning event was highly successful, taking in more than 750 obsolete, damaged and reusable electronics such as shredders, copiers, televisions, facsimile machines and computer peripherals. This effort helped clean out storage rooms and find uses for some of the existing equipment. The effort was initiated by the Environmental Office, but it took the combined efforts of many departments to manage the mass turn-in and create an accurate accounting process. The lessons learned from this collection event are being used to plan future electronics turn-in events.

Submitted by Bernadette Herrera, NAVFAC SW

Naval Base San Diego, CA

Naval Base San Diego's (NBSD) Environmental Office hosted an Earth Day waterfront cleanup. The cleanup team focused on the parking lots and areas around Pier 2, the facility's ceremonial pier. Pier 2 hosts foreign ships and numerous Change of Command activities.

Submitted by Mark Edson, NBSD

Naval Base Point Loma, CA

At Naval Base Point Loma, approximately 200 Sailor and civilian volunteers came armed with shovels, trash bags and rakes to clean up the base. Volunteers picked up trash and cleaned catch basins and culverts. They also planted drought-tolerant native vegetation. In addition to its low water needs, such plants aid in fire management and erosion control, making them an excellent sustainable choice. Following all of the volunteers' hard work, a barbeque was held at Naval Base Point Loma.

Submitted by Rob Chichester, Naval Base Point Loma

Navy Facilities Southwest

Navy Facilities Southwest (NAVFAC SW) participated in San Diego's Earth Fair 2009 at Balboa Park on 19 April. Earth Fair is the largest environmental fair in the world, with approximately 70,000 attendees. At the NAVFAC booth, the public learned about NAVFAC's work in protecting and maintaining the habitats of threatened and endangered plants and animals.

Over 400 volunteers and 200 exhibitors participated in Earth Fair.

Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach, CA

The environmental staff at NWS Seal Beach held their second annual Sustainability Faire on 17 April in honor of

Energy & Water Saving Event

AS A FOLLOW-UP to Earth Day, San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) held an "Energy and Water Saving Event" at Navy Region Southwest Headquarters during the lunch hour on 14 May. The NBSD Environmental Office provided logistical support to SDG&E for the event. The utility gave away an energy and water-saving kit to all SDG&E customers who pledged to save water and install the water-saving devices. The kit includes a low-flow showerhead and three sink aerators. These water-saving devices also save energy by lowering the need for hot water.

There were 379 headquarters personnel who took the pledge and received the kit. SDG&E representatives were amazed at the commitment of local personnel to save water. "Normally only 100-150 customers come to a lunchtime event such as this," said SDG&E spokeswoman Lyn Roppe. "This is outstanding."

The utility is promoting water conservation because the San Diego region is in a Stage II drought condition.



John Crow, Navy Region Southwest (right), distributes an energy and water savings kit to an SDG&E customer who has pledged to use the devices to conserve.

Earth Day. Over 200 employees and 130 fifth-graders from McGaugh Elementary School walked a “green path” to learn what they could do to lead more sustainable lifestyles. Multiple departments, agencies and community groups partnered to present this educational event, which featured over 20 exhibits ranging from eating well and exercising to saving water and recycling. Lead by the Commanding Officer Captain Jonathan Kurtz, all participants were urged to make a pledge to change one thing to live more sustainable lives.

Submitted by David Baillie, NWS Seal Beach

Naval Weapons Station Fallbrook Creek, CA
NWS Fallbrook Creek and the surrounding habitat was the site of a massive cleanup effort this Earth Day. Sailors, Marines and civilians cleaned debris out of Fallbrook Creek and the surrounding upland habitat. The area is home to several endangered or threatened species including the least Bell’s vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, California gnatcatcher and Stephens’ kangaroo rat.



NAVFAC SW staffers Ellen Graubard, Ann Colt and Tonya Malone at Earth Day 2009 in San Diego.



NWS Seal Beach employees Cass Bensberg and Crystal Shepherd sign a pledge to lead a more environmentally sustainable lifestyle.

Eleno Cortez



Earth Day 2009 in San Diego. Approximately 70,000 members of the public attended.



Fifth graders from McCaugh Middle School learn how to lead more sustainable lives from Marcelle Miller of NWS Seal Beach's Environmental Division.

Eleno Cortez

The volunteers divided into teams to hit several hot spots around the base where trash accumulation had been noted.

The debris, ranging from styrofoam containers to a shopping cart to over 600 golf balls, were collected and transferred to a NAVFAC staging area, where they were sorted for later reuse or disposal.

With military bases often becoming the last areas of open space left in Southern California's urban and suburban environment, habitat protection has become even more important.

"It's a great reminder of the lesser-known role that the military plays in environmental stewardship," said conservation program manager Christy Wolf. "Volunteers today not only had an opportunity to see some of this beautiful landscape first-hand, but they got to help with the cleanup of these valuable natural resources."

Submitted by Gregg Smith

Naval Air Station Lemoore, CA

Recycling was the theme this Earth Day week at NAS Lemoore. A children's coloring contest with the theme "What does recycling mean to you?" was followed by a 3K fun run and a 5K run/walk at the base. Each participant in the fun run dropped off a recyclable item at the recycling

booth, which featured various recycled items such as pencils made from recycled money and jeans and pens made from cardboard and wood. There were 800 one-pound bales of cardboard paper and white paper on display as well as other goodies to take home.

Submitted by Sean Bryant, NAS Lemoore

Naval Support Detachment, Monterey, CA

Earth Day was a learning experience at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) Monterey. The NPS Public Works Department (PWD) manned a booth filled with handouts on recycling, composting, protecting marine life, reducing tobacco use and commuting alternatives. Members of the Earth Day planning team also designed 12 posters describing some of the ways in which everyone can lead a greener life at home and at work. A tree planting event wrapped up the week's activities as a dozen volunteers helped plant 11 native Monterey pine seedlings.

Submitted by Johanna Turner, Naval Support Detachment, Monterey

Naval Air Facility El Centro, CA

Three days of environmentally focused activities marked the commemoration of Earth Day at Naval Air Facility (NAF) El Centro. The festivities kicked off the morning of 16 April as children from the Child Development Center (CDC) pedaled throughout the base, amusing all who saw them.

On 23 April, personnel from the various commands of NAF El Centro assembled at the fitness center for the Earth Day Fun Run/Walk. Later that morning, Sailors, contractors and Civil Service employees came together to pick up trash throughout the base and to plant trees around the softball field. In addition to beautifying the base, the newly planted trees will provide shade to spectators watching command softball games in 100-plus degree weather.

That afternoon, the children of the CDC planted flowers and the youth center children planted trees.

The week ended with the Base Picnic and Sustainability Forum. Part educational event and part picnic, the forum included sustainability presentations and displays, free food and basketball, softball and volleyball games. Hosted by the Environmental Office, the Forum is an avenue for promoting environmental stewardship and educating the base population on local conservation efforts.

Naval Air Station Fallon, NV

Several noteworthy tasks were accomplished by the Sailors, civilians and contractors that volunteered their time and energy for Earth Day at NAS Fallon. The day's activities included collecting trash from 13 miles of perimeter and community roads, clearing trash and debris from an irrigation drainage area, giving a nature trail tour to area children, making bird and bat houses and painting several neglected structures. Volunteers spent the most time, however, restoring the neglected Veteran's Memorial Park (VMP). Everyone's efforts culminated in a picnic lunch at the Navy's Nature Trail Park.

Commander Navy Region Northwest

Naval Station Everett Washington

Naval Station (NAVSTA) Everett held an Earth Day fair and barbeque on 22 April. Display booths, including 2009 Honda Civic and Honda Insight hybrid vehicles, were viewed by the 250 military and civilians in attendance. Prizes were awarded in several drawings, and a contest was held by NAVSTA Everett Recycling Division to guess quantities of recycled cardboard and aluminum cans.



NPS Monterey held an education Earth Day fair.



Jose Renteria and Naomi Baucom from the Sonny Bono Wildlife Refuge Complex answering questions and entertaining everyone that comes to their booth.

Harold Russell Jr.



Tree planting event group.

Michelle Dee



Steelworker Third Class Rodriguez of NAS Fallon holds a desert spiny lizard. He picked up the lizard while cleaning up VMP.
Anna Keyzers

Representatives from the Greater Northwest Chief Petty Officer's Association (GNWCPOA) helped out with barbeque duties and setup/cleanup. The Civilian Employees Association provided ice cream for everyone.

Submitted by Ann Bazilwich, NAVFAC NW

Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, WA

To aid in raising environmental awareness among the next generation, NAS Whidbey's recycling team enjoyed showing youngsters what happens to the materials they place in recycling containers.

A group of 50 fifth graders from Sedro-Wooley Elementary toured the facility as part of their Earth Month activities, witnessing lots of activity as forklifts moved large containers and heavy machinery baled aluminum cans, pushed out cardboard bales and made blocks of metal out of damaged and rejected furniture.

The students quickly grasped the concept of baling materials for shipping to product vendors and reuse facilities. At the end of the tour, Paul Brewer, Integrated Solid Waste Program



Sailor removing debris and trash from NAS Fallon perimeter.
Dave Faulk



Area school children view plant specimens during the nature trail hike.
Anna Keyzers



Members of the GNWCPOA perform barbeque duties at the NAVSTA Everett Earth Day Fair.
Kem Espiet



Men at work at the Recycling Center at NAS Whidbey Island.



Members of the Sinclair Inlet Rails and Trails Charette participate in a shoreline restoration site assessment between Charleston Beach and Gorst.

Mike Scott

Manager, challenged the students to create posters highlighting their tour experience, and sent out dumpster dive T-shirts to the best poster artist from each class.

Submitted by Kassie Gale, NAS Whidbey Island

Naval Base Kitsap, WA

Naval Base Kitsap (NBK) is made up of several installations around the Kitsap peninsula.

At NBK Bangor, Navy personnel, civilians and Boy Scouts rooted out invasive species, planted trees and picked up litter. At the NBK Navy Exchange, the energy team set up an energy awareness display to raise awareness of energy conservation options at home and at work. The team exchanged incandescent light bulbs for compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL) as part of the Energy Star CFL Change-Out Campaign. And throughout the month, NBK Recycling coordinated with Bangor building managers and deployed 340 new recycling containers throughout the area.

The energy conservation team at Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Keyport, also hosted an energy awareness table, passing out energy awareness information and give-a-ways, and exchanging incandescent light bulbs for CFL bulbs.

At NBK Bremerton, a herd of 60 goats was brought in to remove noxious weeds. A natural alternative to hazardous chemicals, the goats were used to clear a site for the planting of native vegetation.



Goats hard at work munching on invasive species at NBK Bremerton.

Karen Clavin



Brian Zimmerman, a NAVFAC NW employee, plants a tree at NBK Bangor.

Allison Walters



Federal Fire Department Prevention Battalion Chief Victor Flint demonstrates the "House of Hazards" display during an Earth Day event at SpringFest, Pearl Harbor.

John Ciccarelli



Mike Demotta of the National Botanical Gardens and Rhoda Bradford, President of the Kauai Westside Watershed Council, plant the first tree of the Mana Pacific Garden at PMRF Hawaii.

Jay Pugh

The Sinclair Inlet Improvement Charrette was held on 24 and 25 April. The Charrette is a collaborative event intended to engage the community in ways to improve the shoreline and public access between Bremerton and Gorst. The Charrette focused on four concepts:

1. Surface water management,
2. Shoreline restoration,
3. Bicycle rail-with-trail, and
4. Interpretation and education.

The final planning ideas were presented at a public meeting where County Commissioner Charlotte Garrido and a representative for Senator Patty Murray attended.

Navy Region Hawaii

More than 100 Sailors assigned to commands throughout Navy Region Hawaii joined the City and County of Honolulu and members of the community in the third annual Pearl Harbor bike path cleanup on 18 April.



From left, Commander Kurt Chivers, Lieutenant Commander Lee Pasaraba, Lieutenant Robin Paine, and Storekeeper Florendo Callejas pause during their beautification project at Pearl Harbor.

Jim Murray

The 13.5-mile long trail, which runs along the Pearl Harbor shoreline, is popular among residents and Sailors, who use the path almost daily. The successful cleanup effort resulted in the collection of more than 2,000 pounds of burnable trash, 76 tires and 120 pieces of metal.

Elsewhere, approximately 25 personnel from the Fleet Industrial Supply Center (FISC) Pearl Harbor picked up trash and painted curbs in a FISC-wide beautification event held on 20 April.

About 2,000 people gathered at Naval Station Pearl Harbor's Ward Field for Navy Region Hawaii's sixth annual Navy Earth Day Fair. The fair was part of MWR's SpringFest event that celebrated the month of the military child. The many eco-friendly exhibits and activities helped raise environmental awareness and educated families on ways to protect and preserve Hawaii's fragile environment.

A ceremony at the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), Barking Sands, Kauai, coordinated nicely with Earth Day

2009. The blessing ceremony was held at the construction site of the Mana Pacific Garden, a cooperative conservation project set to begin outside the facility's main gate. The project, in partnership with the Kauai Westside Watershed Council and the National Tropical Botanical Gardens, will comprise a series of natural biomes depicting native area habitats. Accompanying narratives will explain indigenous vegetation as well as food, shelter, construction, medicine and cultural practices, as they existed prior to Westernization.

Naval Support Activity, Washington, D.C.

NSA Washington held its annual Earth Day celebration on 22 April. The celebration began with welcoming remarks by Captain John Sears, who later introduced Brigadier General (retired) Bob Barnes from The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Mr. Barnes, a senior policy advisor at TNC, gave a presentation on climate change to more than 150 attendees. Following the presentation, volunteers from PWD, Flag Housing, The U.S. Navy Band, Military Sealift Command, NAVFAC Washington and the U.S. Ceremonial Guard participated in a base-wide cleanup. Each participant was provided trash bags and gloves to ensure their safety. After the cleanup, exhibitors from various agencies and non-government organizations participated in an Environmental/Safety Fair, displaying various safety and environmental topics.

Submitted by Jon Youngdahl and Maria Vargas, NSA Washington

Overseas Commands

Navy Region Marianas, Guam

Earth week at Navy Region Marianas was focused on involving school-



Navy Sailors participating in the NSA Washington base-wide cleanup effort.

Joseph Cirone



Captain Sears, Commanding Officer, NSA Washington, extends thanks to guest speaker Bob Barnes, from TNC, for participating in the Earth Day Event.

Joseph Cirone

children in several environmentally themed activities. Marianas Natural Resource Specialists Jennifer Farley and Gretchen Grimm conducted a paper recycling workshop with 4th and 5th grade students at Truman Elementary School. Students made their own decorative paper from a mixture of old newspaper and other organic materials. Seeds were added to some of the paper to make "plant-

able paper" that the students can use to grow flowers and vegetables.

In a separate workshop, each class was taught about native and non-native species. During the session, the class was broken into groups and each group planted the seed for a native tree. Saplings will be planted around the school when they reach the appropriate size.



Students in Guam learn about drinking water production at the Fena water treatment plant.



Staff from Navy Region Marianas taught students about native plant and animal species.

Students at Truman Elementary School and Guam High School learned about the science and technology of drinking water production during a field trip to the Fena water treatment plant. Environmental Office personnel discussed the water cycle and demonstrated the process required to transform rain water into drinking water.

Volunteers of all ages came out to help clean up two area beaches on 17 April—Dadi beach on Naval Base Guam and nearby Tanguissan Beach.



Students at Truman Elementary School planted trees in honor of Earth Day.

On 25 April, Navy Region Marianas joined with the Air Force Environmental Flight to host a booth at Island Pride Festival. Sponsored by the Guam Environmental Protection Agency, this festival required attendees to travel from booth to booth to earn “passport stamps.” A completed passport entitled the holder to free passes for Underwater World Aquarium.

Submitted by Mark Cruz, NAVFAC Marianas

Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan

There was a full slate of activities for Earth Week at NAF Atsugi. On Earth Day, volunteers met for a day-long, base-wide cleanup. All participants were treated to lunch and prizes were given out in various categories. Approximately 1,000 pounds of trash was collected.

Also on 22 April, shoppers at the commissary received paper bags decorated by Shirley Lanham Elementary School students as well as reusable green bags. In all, 860 bags were distributed.

There was also a used battery and unwanted household chemical turn-in event, after which permanent battery collection stations were installed.

In the days leading up to Earth Day, Shirley Lanham Elementary School students participated in an Earth Day poster contest, and a competition to see which classroom could collect the most trash.

Submitted by Christina Floyd, NAF Atsugi

Naval Support Activity Bahrain

NSA Bahrain participated in Earth Week with a base-wide cleanup that focused on the waterfront area, the base perimeter and the parking lot of the Aviation Unit. Teams of volunteers picked up debris by hand and a pickup truck drove through the base for pallet/card-board removal.

In addition, a Foreign Object Device walk-down was staged to identify and remove foreign objects that could pose a danger to aviation activities.

Submitted by Awni Almasri, NSA Bahrain

Navy Region Center Singapore

Singapore Area Coordinator (SAC) and Navy Region Center Singapore (NRCS) scheduled two special events for Earth Week and celebrated in style. On 17 April, an Environmental and Safety Fair gave attendees a chance to spin a roulette wheel, answer environmentally related questions and win T-shirts or water bottles. Hot dogs and homemade ice cream were also sold.



Volunteers at NAF Atsugi help students plant flowers on Earth Day.
Masaharu Chiba



Deputy Public Works Officer, Dr. Jan Buzak,
collects trash at NAF Atsugi.
Masaharu Chiba



Admiral Tyson shaking hands with Mr. Imran from the Singapore National Environment Agency, joint sponsors of the Changi coastal cleanup in Singapore.
Alice Wilson

On 18 April, the Chaplain and Singapore National Environment Agency and NRCS Environmental and Safety co-sponsored a beach and coastline cleanup day. Admiral Tyson and Captain Pendergrass of NRCS worked alongside 60 other participants to clear debris and trash from over 500 meters of coastline.

Fleet Activities Sasebo Japan

Fleet Activities Sasebo (FAS) Japan held a month long program to observe Earth Day. Different community groups had the opportunity to participate in various activities promoting environmental protection.

FAS schools were involved in green educational activities such as recyclable material collection, field trips to the Recycling Center, poster contests and an Earth Day science fair. Meanwhile active duty, dependants, civilians and the local community participated in a 3K walk/run and took part in a base-wide cleanup and picnic, and other local cleanup efforts. Families, commands and organizations also had



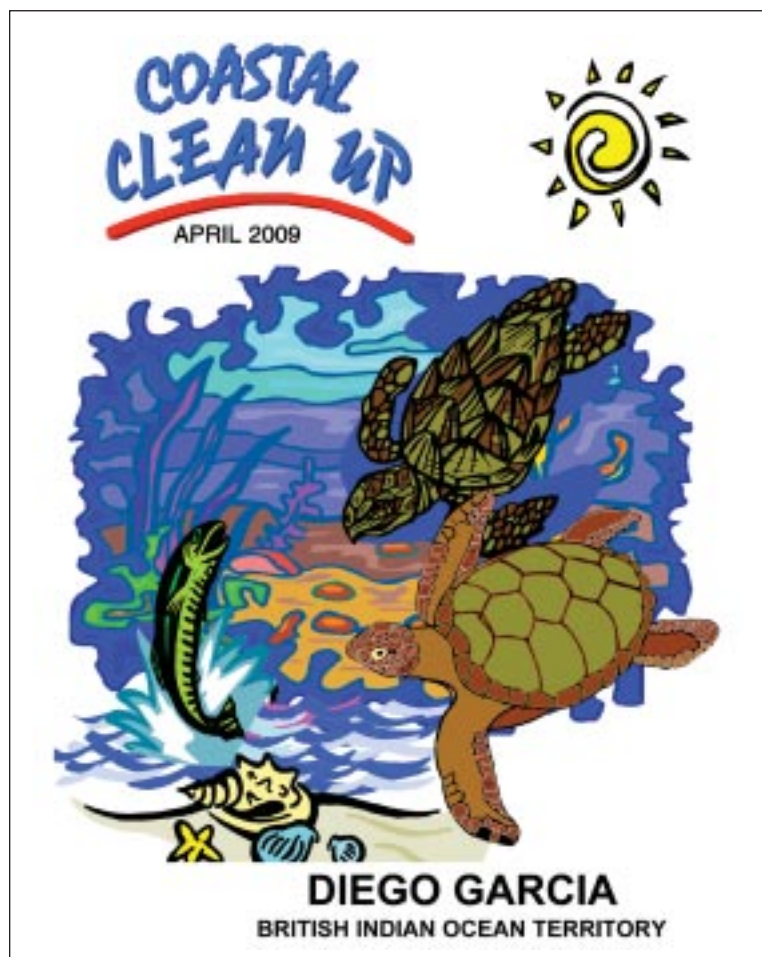
Captain Pendergrass of NRCS and Commander Logistics Group Western Pacific Command Master Chief Becker support recycling collection at the Earth Day Fair, Singapore.
Teo Kok Sin



Metals picked up during base-wide cleanup at FAS Japan.



Winners of the Sasebo Elementary Earth Day Science Fair at FAS Japan.



Diego Garcia Earth Day t-shirt design.

an opportunity to enter a contest that demonstrated their green efforts through photo journaling, videos or photo essays.

Naval Support Facility, Diego Garcia

Volunteers pitched in to clean the beaches of this remote island in the Indian Ocean on the morning of 24 April. The cleanup effort was not only a celebration of Earth Day, it was also an important step in preparing the area for the seasonal nesting of endangered sea turtles. Volunteers were given free Earth Day T-shirts designed by Nestor Guzman, Natural Resources Specialist.

In addition to the beach cleanup, a hard-wood tree planting was undertaken.

Submitted by Nestor Guzman, Naval Support Facility Diego Garcia

This article content was compiled and edited by Kathy Kelley, contributing writer to *Currents*. [📌](#)

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